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THE

Halifax Philatelist.

PUBLISHED BY

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The Halifax Philatelist.

Vol. I. HALIFAX, N. S., MAY, 1887. No. 5.

WATERMARKS.

BY HENRY HECHLER.

Switzerland adopted a watermark in 1862, viz.: an oval shield bearing the Geneva Cross.

Tasmania.—The first issue (1852) was imperforate and without watermark. They are so rare as to be hardly procurable. A new type was introduced in 1855. They were also imperforate and have the star watermark. These also appear without watermark and such are quite as rare as those of the first issue. In 1857 the series received additions. The stamps remained imperforate but bore watermarks of the numerals of their respective values. In 1863 the same series was perforate. In 1870 two errors appeared, the 1d. being printed in some cases on the paper bearing the 4d. watermark and in others the 10d. These are very rare and command very high prices. In 1871 the watermark was changed to T A S.

Tobago.—The first issue (1879) bore the waterwark C C and a crown which was changed in 1884 to C A and a crown.

Trinidad got its first stamps in 1851. They were imperforate, without watermark and printed on blue paper. They are very high priced. Later white paper was used. Still later they were perforated. It was not until 1865 that a watermark C C and a crown was adopted. In 1879 a provisional ½d. was introduced with the same watermark which was, in some instances, sideways, in which case the stamps are very valuable. In 1883 a new type bearing the watermark of C A and a crown was issued.

Turk's Island.—It was without watermark that the first issue appeared in 1867. In 1880 the star watermark was adopted which was changed in 1881 to C C and a crown. The latter are extremely rare and their values range from 25c. to $1. In some instances the watermark on the 1d. is sideways. This variety has been sold at 60 cents. In 1882 the watermark became C A and a crown. The 1d. scarlet exists in each of the two watermarks.

Tuscany.—The first stamps of this state were issued in 1850 on blue paper with straight and with waved lines, in some running horizontally and in others perpendicularly. In 1854 the same appeared on white paper. The above were all imperforate. In 1859 a new type was introduced but the watermark remained the same as before. Some of all the three above series are priceless.

Victoria.—The first issue was in 1852. It was imperforate and had no watermark. Some stamps of this issue are perforate and such are extremely rare. In 1858 some of the stamps were rouletted and they are also so rare as to be nearly priceless. Later in that year they were

perforated. In 1859 the star watermark was introduced but the stamps were imperforate. Some of the 1d. and 4d. appeared rouletted. Others as well as some of the 2d. appeared on wove paper and were imperforate. The 4d. was also printed in some instances on laid paper. In 1862 the stamps were perforated and had the watermarks of the respective values, some in plain, others in open numerals, and others again in letters. Numerous "errors" also occurred which we point out in detail as follows:—The 2d., 3d. and 6d. were printed on the paper bearing as watermark the open numeral 1. The 1d., 2d. and 6d. were printed on that bearing an open 4. All these are very rare and are, therefore, eagerly sought for, high prices being asked and paid for them. The 1d. and 2d. also appear on paper having the plain numeral 4, 6 and 8, three varieties each. They range in values from 50c. to $2.50. The six-pence appears with the watermark "three-pence" and again with "four-pence." The 1d. and 2d. appear also with "six-pence." The 3d. was also found with the watermark 8 in some cases and 10 in others. The 8d. and 9d. also are to be found on the watermark 10. In 1874 the regular watermark V and a crown was introduced and has been held to the present time.

Virgin Islands.—The first issue (1866) bore no watermark. In 1879 a new series bearing the watermark C C and a crown was adopted by this as by the majority of British colonies. In 1884 this was changed to C A and a crown. The 1d. had its color changed from green to carmine in the latter year, but the change of the watermark occurring after that of color, that value is to be found with each watermark. Both varieties in green are extremely rare.

Western Australia.—The first issue which was imperforate and had a swan as a watermark, appeared in 1855. They command from $1 to $2. In 1862 they became perforate but otherwise unchanged. They are worth from 35c. to $2. In 1864 the entire set bore no watermark. These are rarely obtainable and command good prices. The watermark C C and a crown came into use in 1867. The value of these is increasing. In 1882 C A and a crown made its advent as a watermark.

Wurtemberg.—The issue of 1861 is imperforate and is remarkable in that a silk thread runs through each stamp. The Bavaria stamps of 1867 have the same peculiarity.

As some of our readers will, doubtless wonder what the letters in the watermarks of most of the British colonies mean. We will explain that "C C" means Crown Colony and "C A" means Crown Agents.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF BUENOS AYRES.

BY S. R. S.

An interesting article on the above stamps appeared in the "Stamp Collector's Magazine" (published in London), January 1, 1865. As these stamps are now obsolete, a reproduction in the "Halifax Philatelist" might be acceptable to the subscribers of this new venture. The article states that it is taken "chiefly from Le Timbre Poste,

by kind permission of Mons. Moens."

The decree creating the postage stamps of that country is as follows :

BUENOS AYRES,

April 9th, 1858.

Considering the necessity of establishing a system of stamps for postal correspondence, and comformably to the proposition of the postmaster-general, the government grants and decrees :

1. That letters shall be franked by means of postage stamps, and that the post office shall not take charge of letters unprovided with such.

2. Supplementary to the decree* of June 27th, 1857, the value of these stamps shall be 2, 3, 4 and 5 pesos, according to the weight of the letters. A single letter shall bear a 2p. stamp on one of the corners of the envelope, a double shall have a 3p, a triple 4p., and a heavier letter a 5p. stamp.

3. (This article settles the weight of all letters under an ounce.)

4. (Provides for those weighing above one ounce.)

5. The sale of these postage stamps shall take place at the principal post office and in other places appointed for the purpose.

6. Whoever shall employ a stamp that has already been used shall be fined 5 pesos in addition to the postage, the first offence ; and 200 for the second, 300 for the third, and so on in proportion.

7. When the guilty party shall be unable or unwilling to pay the penalty, he shall be transferred to the proper official tribunal, for the infliction of whatever punishment may be judged commensurate with the offence.

8. The stamps shall be fabricated at the Bank or the Mint, in presence of a commission appointed for that end. The manager shall register the number of sheets printed.

9. The forgers of postage stamps and their accomplices shall be liable to all the penalties fixed by the laws.

10. Both stamps and plates shall remain deposited at the Bank under the same restrictions as the plates of bank notes.

11. This decree shall be put in force a week after issue in the city, and a month in the provinces.

12. (Provides for the circulation of the decree.)

"Jose Barros Pazos."

This decree did not provide for the colors of the stamps, but the following were those adopted :

dos	pesos	azul	or 2p. blue.
tres	"	verde	3p. green.
cuatro	"	colorado	4p. vermillion.
cuico	"	amarillo	5p. orange.

They were put in circulation April 29th, 1858.

In consequence of a reduction in the charge, comformably to a decree of October 2nd, 1858, the postal authorities on the 26 day of that month emitted two new values similar to the type in use. These two values were :

: IN PS. coffee colored, or 1 peso dark brown, for letters weighing an ounce.

CUAT° RS. chestnut, or four reales bright yellow-brown, for letters weighing half an ounce.

There are, moreover, the following varieties met with among these stamps.

* "What was the decree? Was it one approving the *Gaucho* series, which the writer seems to ignore ?—Ed. Stamp Collector's Magazine."

: IN PS. bright yellow-brown, same shade as the 4r. above.

CUAT° RS. brown.

CUAT° RS. very dark brown.

On the 1st of January, 1859, the shade of the 1 peso was changed, and in lieu thereof was issued.

: IN PS. azul or 1 peso light blue.

Variety or 1 pesos dark blue.

These are all the different values or shades that have appeared of the first or "ship" type; as for the 4 and 5 pesos blue and the same values brown, they have never existed, but this is what induces the prevalent error respecting them, viz.: the postal authorities emitting two new values, cancelled the preceding ones, but made use of the die of the 4 and 5 pesos for the 1 peso and 4 reales.

(To be continued.)

(NAME THIS PAPER.)

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Published Monthly.

IN THE INTERESTS OF STAMP COLLECTORS.

VOL. 1. MAY, 1887. No. 5.

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AGENTS.

G. H. Richmond, 5 Beekam St., N. Y.
H. H. Carvell, Moncton, N. B.
J. A. Craig, Yarmouth, N. S.

It is now five months since the first number of *The Halifax Philatelist* made its appearance, and we are glad to be able to express ourselves much pleased with the success we have met with during that period, and we trust that we have in some way, be it ever so little, benefited those who have given us their patronage. We intend in the future as we have done in the past, to obtain good articles that will please as well as instruct, and we hope that by so doing to merit a continuance of the favor which we have met with from the philatelic public.

All we ask for a year's subscription is 25 cents, and with it we give a fine premium in stamps as advertized on another page. Now a year's subscription is well worth the price asked, for you may be sure of receiving a great many times the amount paid in information regarding our science, and from the bargains which are offered by dealers through our columns every month, may be obtained many good stamps. Twenty-five cents is a very small sum to you and will not be missed, but it will help to make our paper attain the success to which we would like to see it.

It is amusing to note some of the different lights in which some of our best philatelic papers regard any new publication. Nothing has brought this out as much as Mr. J. F. Stanton's new *American Philatelic Directory.* Some of the papers say that it is a very good work, in fact as good as any in existence, others that it is very fair, but ought to be better, while others say that it is so bad a production that they could not bother reading through it. Now we greatly wonder why this is, surely there should not be so great a diversity of opinion in regard to it, and we begin to think that a little personal spirit has entered into the criticism of it.

A prominent collector here has lately become possessed of a very fine specimen of the 1 shilling N. S. It is used and on the original envelope and is post marked 1856; this is rather remarkable as we have always thought that these stamps were issued in 1857, and indeed all the catalogues give that date. A gentleman however, has informed us that they were in existence even before 1856.

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ODD NOTES.

THE 5 ore green of Norway has appeared from a new die, it is smaller and of a brighter color.

THE latest thing in the way of a newspaper wrapper was lately posted in this city; it consisted of a plain piece of paper, having an envelope stamp which had been cut out glued to it.

THE stamp invention question is likely to again come into the field, as a number of new inventors have been found.

THE color of the 3d., Jamaica, has been changed to a light olive, and is much handsomer than the old shade.

WE are under the impression that the last number of our paper was about as good as any of the numerous publications which appeared in April.

WE have been informed that the head of Andrew Jackson has been chosen for one of the new American stamps, thus retaining the memory of the old standard bearer of the Democratic party in the U. S.

A PROMINENT Philadelphia daily paper in an article on the different prices of stamps, states that Mr. Henry Collins has the only used Brattleboro in existence for which he wants $1000.

THERE are about 15,000 varieties of stamps to be obtained if one collects the different kinds of perforations, colors, watermarks, &c.

"Wanderer" has at last become known to philatelists, as Mr. T. J. Mitchell of Chicago. We have always thought that it was hardly fair to cover up such good articles as he has produced by a *nom de plume*.

MESSRS. D. T. Crosman & Co. of Rochester, N. J. intend shortly to issue something new in the directory line, viz: *The Golden Star Agent's Directory*, will contain monthly the addresses of 600 agents, with each address printed on gummed and perforated paper, so that they can be taken off and attached to any circulars or papers. The idea is a novel one, and will save much trouble to advertisers.

Exchanges.

THE April number of *The Quaker City Philatelist* is the best number of that journal, which we have seen. It contains some good spicy articles and a large number of advertisements. Keep it up friend MacCalla.

No. 4 of *The Western Philatelist* received. We think it about the best that has ever appeared from Chicago, and hope that it will be kept up to its present high standard. It takes the lead in Society notes.

No. 8 of Vol. II of *The Philatelic Magazine* is to hand. It is not so good as some of the back numbers of the same journal. We hope to see an improvement in next number.

THE second number of the *Figaro* is before us It contains a very nicely written article by "Wanderer" on U. S. Revenues, and another by J. J. Casey on the late auction sales in New York.

To all who subscribe now, we will give any one of the following splendid stamp premiums :—

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Exchange wanted with advanced collectors for good rare stamps. Send sheet and I will send one in return, also send list of philatelic papers that you may have to exchange, for which stamps or other philatelic papers will be given.

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